

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Serial No.: Unknown (Priority Claimed to European Patent Application
No. 00 121 032.7 filed September 27, 2000)
Applicant: Mertens et al.
Filing Date: September 27, 2001
Art Unit: Unknown
Examiner: Unknown
Title: **METHOD FOR CHECKING THE CONTENT OF POCKETS IN
A BLISTER PACKAGE**
Our Ref. No.: KST-02

Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

September 27, 2001

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination of the above-identified application, please amend
the application as follows:

In the Specification:

Please add the following paragraph to the beginning of the
specification:

--The present application claims priority to European Patent
Application No. 00 121 032.7 filed September 27, 2000, the disclosure of which
is hereby incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.--

00546-0920
T02260-9TH99650

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 3, 5, 6 and 10 as follows:

3. (AMENDED) A method according to claim 1 further comprising the step of detecting each pocket of the package by means of said sensor.
5. (AMENDED) A method according to claim 3 wherein the number of the sensors provided for corresponds to the number of pockets in a package.
6. (AMENDED) A method according to claim 1 wherein the sensor is a capacitive test probe, which preferably measures the induced dipol moment (the electrical polarization) in any given volume of any material by means of a high frequent alternating field.
10. (AMENDED) A method according to claim 1 wherein the sensor is an optical three-dimensional image detection sensor.

Remarks

Applicants have amended claims 3, 5, 6 and 10 and respectfully submit that the amendment is not made for any reason related to patentability.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned **“Version with markings to show changes made”**.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David H. Brinkman", written over a horizontal line.

David H. Brinkman, Esq.
Reg. No. 40,532

Wood, Herron & Evans, L.L.P.
2700 Carew Tower
441 Vine Street
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202
(513) 241-2324 - Office
(513) 421-7269 - Facsimile

10/26/00 5:14:50 PM

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Specification:

Please add the following paragraph to the beginning of the specification:

--In the specification the present application claims priority to European Patent Application No. 00 121 032.7 filed September 27, 2000, the disclosure of which is hereby incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.--

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 3, 5, 6 and 10 as follows:

3. (AMENDED) A method according to claim 1 [or 2] further comprising the step of detecting each pocket of the package by means of said sensor.
5. (AMENDED) A method according to [one] claim 3 wherein the number of the sensors provided for corresponds to the number of pockets in a package.
6. (AMENDED) A method according to claim 1 [or 2] wherein the sensor is a capacitive test probe, which preferably measures the induced dipol moment (the electrical polarization) in any given volume of any material by means of a high frequent alternating field.

10. (AMENDED) A method according to claim 1 [or 2] wherein the sensor is an optical three-dimensional image detection sensor.